WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on a Competitiveness and Innovation Network in the outermost regions of the European Union

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Written declaration on a Competitiveness and Innovation Network in the outermost regions of the European Union

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Article 349 TFEU states that the structural, social and economic situation of the outermost regions is compounded by natural and geographic features which restrict their development, growth and competitiveness,

B. whereas EU2020 aims to achieve smart growth where improved conditions and access to funding for research and innovation are transformed into new and better products and services capable of generating growth and employment,

C. whereas the flagship initiative ‘Innovation Union’ intends to focus on research and innovation policy, namely by promoting knowledge partnerships and strengthening links between education, business, research and innovation,

1. Notes that there is a need to create a European network in the outermost regions to promote the exchange of ideas, good practices and projects, with a structure capable of strengthening each link of the innovation chain from ‘blue sky’ research to commercialisation;

2. Stresses that a network for competitiveness and innovation would help mitigate the structural constraints of the outermost regions and would develop their potential in innovative and competitive sectors;

3. Calls on the Commission to take the necessary steps to introduce proposals for the creation of a Competitiveness and Innovation Network in the outermost regions of the EU, taking advantage of their enormous potential and making them a valuable asset for Europe;

4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.